pending with the Union Government for a long time;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) the funds proposed to be allocated for this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). The proposed bridge does not fall on an National Highways. The State Government are required under the National Highway'7 Act to enter into an agreement with the Central Government for declaring the road as a suitable urban link before construction of the bridge out of Central funds can be taken up. As the estimate for the project can be sanctioned only after such an agreement is entered into, it is too early to indicate the allocation of funds.

Export of Foodgrains

842. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several exporters are responsible for the increase in the prices of Basmati Rice and paddy in Delhi and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the particular of these exporters;

(c) the quantity exported by them as against the permitted quota during each of the last three years;

(d) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry about the quality of goodgrains exported and irregularities committed by them; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b). During the period from 1st April, 1991 to 31st January, 1992, quantity of 180594 MTs of Basmati rice valued at Rs. 285.41 crores have been exported as against 1,83,580 MTs valued at Rs. 214.78 crores during the corresponding period of 1990–91. It would appear that the increase in prices cannot be attributed to exports solely.

(c) There is no quota for Basmati rice. Hence question of quantity exported by exporters as against the permitted quota during each of the last three years, does not arise.

(d) and (e). In respect of agricultural items, where exporter produces a firm letter from the overseas buyer stating that the overseas buyer does not want preshipment inspection from any official Indian inspection Agencies, the condition of preshipment inspection has been dispensed with, with effect from 30th Sept., 1991. Barring such a case, the quality of Basmati rice is evaluated during the export inspection Marketing and Inspection/Export Inspection Council and export is allowed if the quality conforms to the specified standard laid down for Basmati rice.

Hike in D.T.C. Bus Fares

843. SHRI RAM BADAN:
DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL:
SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI:
SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL:
SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fares of D.T.C. buses have been increased recently;